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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 1st INFANTRY DIVISION (M)
UNIT 26222
APO AE 09036

APR 22 2003

AETV-BG-SY

MEMORANDUM FOR All 1st Infantry Division Soldiers, Family Members, and Civilians

SUBJECT: Memorial Day Holiday Weekend Safety Message (23 - 26 May 03)

1. Memorial Day is a time to remember those who have given their lives in defense of our nation and way of life. It also marks the beginning of the high activity Summer Season. As we celebrate this long weekend and start of the summer season, I want to reiterate the need to focus on safety by all members of the Big Red One - soldiers, families, and civilians - when engaging in the long weekend & summer recreational activities.
2. We have made major progress in "off-duty" accident prevention. Most sincere thanks to every soldier and leader. Unfortunately, Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) accidents still remain the number one threat to our soldiers, family members, and civilians in the Big Red One. The major causes of these accidents are excessive speed, driving while fatigued, and failure to use seat belts. Take the time to review the risks associated with driving on the German roads, especially secondary roads. Avoid driving too far without sufficient rest, get your POV inspected before departing on long trips, insist that all your passengers buckle up, don't drink and drive and use a designated driver. Unit leaders must also make a special effort to include all soldiers and civilians in their pre-holiday safety briefings. Be proactive in getting the same information to family members.
3. Accident prevention is a command responsibility. We have suffered enough unnecessary death and disabling injury simply because some of our soldiers failed to follow the rules of the road. Commanders must ensure that safety awareness is emphasized prior to releasing soldiers for the Memorial Day weekend.
4. We must not forget that we live in a dangerous world. There are still those who would attempt to harm U.S. citizens. Be especially mindful of your surroundings during this holiday period and throughout the summer. Use OPSEC as a force multiplier...it will bring you home safely. Protecting families and the force is our #1 priority.
5. Have a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day weekend.

DUTY FIRST!


JOHN R. S. BATISTE
Major General, USA
Commanding